March 12, 2009 Farmingville, NY - We all have experienced the frustration of dealing with excessive bureaucratic regulations which place obstacles in the way of common sense, resulting in substantial delays and added costs. By initiating the Red Tape Commission, Connie Kepert has taken on the bureaucracy.

The Commission, initiated by Councilwoman Kepert in March of 2008, is comprised of Town Of Brookhaven staff from the Planning Division, Division of Environmental Protection, Division of Traffic Safety, Engineering Division, Building Department, the Town Clerk, the Planning Board, attorneys, and applicants.

The Red Tape Commission identified a number of policies, strategies and recommendations to "cut through the red tape." The commission developed an easy to check list for every application and placed the checklist on the town’s website, as well as a flowchart with time tables for each type of project. It also developed procedures to arbitrate conflicting comments from staff, outside agencies and reduce the time it takes to review surveys, site plans, and change of zone applications. "These recommendations and policies will stimulate our local economy by creating jobs and keeping folks in business," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Brian Pratt, Executive Assistant in the Planning Department stated, "The Councilwoman aptly came to the conclusion that procedures had to be created to make the Town work more like a business. Bringing together the business community, developers and PELM staff was a great way to develop processes that will benefit all parties involved."

Matt Whalen of Avalon Bay says "On behalf of the Long Island Builder’s Institute (LIBI) and as Vice President of Avalon Bay I want to applaud Connie Kepert for her leadership in forming the Brookhaven Red Tape Commission. In these difficult economic times it is critical to realize the importance of real estate development for the jobs that are created, the tax revenue and the economic enhancements that spin-off from development. The Town of Brookhaven has taken positive steps to make the permitting process more predictable, comprehensive and time sensitive. This will result in benefits to the town and its residents. As president of LIBI, it is my hope that the high standards that Brookhaven has set will be followed by other towns on Long Island."